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CITY EDITION

## RUMANIA MAY JOIN FORCES OF TRIPLE ENTENTE IF BULGARIA WILL AGREE TO KEEP NEUTRAL

## AMERICAN CRUISER THREATENS TO BOMBARD TRIPOLI BECAUSE OF INTERFERENCE WITH ALIENS

## Turks at First Refuse to Allow French and British to Leave the Port

## THE WAR SITUATION IS NOT GREATLY CHANGED

In the West the Allies Claim to Have Gained Slightly, But Germans Assert They Have Withstood All Assaults—In the East the Teutons Claim to Be Advancing While the Russians Deny the Assertion

Although stating that progress has been made today's communication from the French war office lays chief emphasis on the reported attacks by the Germans, who apparently have undertaken a series of vigorous onslaughts in response to the offensive movement of the allies. Some of these German attacks extend over considerable sections of ground, involving large bodies of troops, but the assertion is made that all were checked. Perceptible progress in Alsace is claimed by the French.

Reviewing conditions in the east the French war office asserts that the Germans have been thrust back along the line before Warsaw, and that in the fighting in the region of Cracow, the Russians have won the advantage. The Japanese embassy at Washington gave confirmation of last night's report from the official press bureau in Berlin that Russia had ceded to Japan the northern half of the island of Sakhalin, directly north of Japan, in return for some heavy guns. The southern half of this island, formerly Russian, was ceded to Japan after the Russo-Japanese war.

The German statement contains the striking announcement that the German attacks on the Bzura river have ceased. It claims successes on the right bank of the Pilica and describes the situation elsewhere as unchanged. Coming to the western arena of the fighting, Berlin relates that German troops have been successful. They have repulsed English and French attacks near Neuport, and minor engagements in the Vosges and upper Alsace have not altered the situation. Other encounters in France are mentioned, but nothing is said of the outcome.

Bombardment by an American cruiser of the Turkish port of Tripoli, Syria, is said at Athens to have been threatened on account of an attack by Turks on the crew of an American merchantman on which British and French citizens desired to leave. The reports received from Athens state that the threat of the warship's commander quelled the attack. The cruiser Tennessee has been in the eastern Mediterranean for several months and was last reported not far from Tripoli.

Italy's occupation of the Albanian port of Avlona was believed to open up possibilities of complication which might make it difficult for the Rome government to maintain its neutrality. The attitude of Roumania also was more than a matter of doubt, on account of reports from Paris that the only obstacle which prevented her from joining with the triple entente had been removed. Bulgaria was represented as having given assurances that she would remain neutral, relieving Roumania from the fear of an attack from that source should she enter the war.

Despatches from Chile stated that the last of what was once Germany's Pacific squadron was fighting to escape the fate which overtook her four companion cruisers when they met the British. The German cruiser Dresden, with the converted cruiser Prince Eitel Friedrich, were said to have been engaged by the British cruiser Newcastle near Valparaiso.

London, Dec. 26.—Christmas has come and gone without a trace on the part of any of the warring nations of Europe. While there has been no cessation of military activity, no decisive action has occurred along either of the great battle fronts. From Petrograd comes news that the Russians have resumed the offensive at several points in Poland and that they have captured no fewer than 11,000 prisoners. To offset this, Berlin reports inactivity along the Polish front.

General von Hindenburg, the German commander in the east, still keeps his bull dog grip on the Vistula and seems to be making his present movement towards Warsaw from Thorne, which is northwest of the Polish capital in the province of west Prussia.

On the western battle line Paris reports progress from Neuport, while Berlin balances this with the claim that the Germans have taken some British trenches.

From Athens comes an incomplete report of the refusal of the Turkish authorities to permit the departure from Tripoli, in Syria, of the British and French consuls and a number of British and French citizens on an American ship under convoy of an American cruiser. This refusal is said

recaptured by us after a spirited engagement.

"Between the Olse and the Aisne reports declare that during the day of December 24 a strong German attack was repulsed at Chivy, to the northeast of Zouplir. In the region of Perthes the artillery silenced the batteries of the enemy which were bombarding the trenches recently occupied by our troops. Two strong German counter attacks were repulsed during the night of December 24-25.

"Yesterday, December 25, a further counter attack of particular severity, delivered on a front of 1,500 yards with important bodies of troops, was completely checked.

"In the Argonne and between the Meuse and the Moselles there is nothing to report.

"In upper Alsace December 25 was marked by perceptible progress in front of Cernay. We reached the outskirts of the hills to the west of the town and here we held our positions in spite of several counter attacks.

"We occupied, south of Aspach, the valley and the heights which dominate Expals on the west.

"Russia: The Germans who had been forcing their way to the Bzura river to the south of Sochaczew, were driven back after suffering heavy losses. The German attack on Bolkow resulted in failure. In the region of Inowolodz on the Pilica river, and to the south of this locality, stubborn fighting continues. Along the entire course of the Nida river and to the south of the Vistula the fighting is going on under conditions favorable for the Russians."

Roumania May Get In

The only obstacle to Roumania joining the forces of the triple entente, according to the Figaro, was the lack of guarantees from Bulgaria regarding that country's neutrality. The Figaro learns from a good source, it says today, that these guarantees have now been obtained as a result of the joint action of the triple entente powers at Sofia, with the further understanding that in the event of Bulgaria deciding to intervene in the war it would be against the enemies of the entente.

The German Version

Berlin, Dec. 26 (By Wireless to London).—The official announcement on the progress of the war given out in Berlin this afternoon relates German successes in the western arena of the war. English and French attacks near Neuport have been repulsed.

The statement refers to engagements elsewhere in France, but either makes no mention of the outcome, or says the situation remains unchanged. In Russia Germans took prisoners near Lotzense and were successful on the Pilica.

The text of the announcement follows:

"Near Neuport, during the night of December 24-25, attacks delivered by English and Indian contingents near St. Hubert can be better judged to day. Nineteen officers and 818 men were taken prisoners, while 14 machine guns, 12 mine throwers and other war material were captured. The enemy left more than 3,000 dead on the field. The English asked for a cessation of hostilities to bury the dead. Our losses were comparatively small.

"Some minor engagements have taken place at Lipons, southwest of Amiens, and at Tracy le Val, northeast of Compeigne. We captured 600 prisoners.

"In the Vosges, south of Diedolschauer and in upper Alsace, west of Senheim and also at a point to the southwest of Altkirch, there were small engagements yesterday, but the situation remains unchanged.

"The evening of December 20, a French airplane threw a bomb on a certain small village. No troops were stationed at this place. There was only a hospital which was plainly marked. No damage of consequence was done. In reply to this aerial attack also throwing of bombs on the open town of Freiburg which is not

defended and outside the zone of operations, German armmen threw medium sized bombs into the outskirts of Nancy.

"Russian attacks in the vicinity of Ltsen have been repulsed and we took 1,000 prisoners. In north Polar to the east of the Vistula, the situation remains unchanged.

"We have ceased our attacks on the Bzura river. On the right bank of the Pilica, to the southeast of Tomaszow, our offensive has been successful. Further to the south the situation remains unchanged."

What Vienna Says

Washington, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the Austro-Hungarian embassy from Vienna today announced that the Austrian emperor had expressed his thanks to President Wilson, through Ambassador Penfield, for the American Christmas gifts distributed yesterday among children of dead soldiers. The dispatch also explained the retreat from Serbia of the Austrian Balkan forces.

"Official communique asserts that Austrian troops, after a victorious advance, retreated from Serbia on account of bad weather, unbeaten and with unbroken courage. Our losses were enormously exaggerated. In the Carpathians our attacks continue to gain ground," said the dispatch.

Petrograd Is Hopeful

Petrograd, Dec. 26 (via London).—The war expert of the Novoe Vremya, in a summary of the war, published today, refers to what he calls the "collapse of the Austrian campaign in Galicia, the lack of cohesion on the part of the German armies to the north of Cracow, and the dogged perseverance, but with waning spirit, of the Germans at Sochaczew," which he said described the situation in Poland. Going into details, this observer says:

"The lack of success of the Austrian army on the Sanok-lisko front devitalized all the Austrian operations in Galicia. The fate of Przemyśl has been a weighty factor with the Austrian general staff, which placed great importance on the co-operation of the garrison of this fortress with the army advancing through the Pezlaborete pass. The Przemyśl sorties were the last feverish efforts of the garrison's expiring energy.

"Following the failure of the Austrian army on the Sanok-lisko line," the writer goes on, "their entire campaign weakened and counter-attacks became more and more effective. Finally the Russian armies took offensive along the entire front. The Austrians lost all interest in their third Galician campaign when they failed to relieve Przemyśl.

"They began with high spirits and large hopes, based on the co-operation of fresh German troops, which had not as yet fought in Russia; reliance was placed also on a simultaneous attack on a large scale by the German army before Warsaw. At the present time there is fighting going on the Bzura, near Bolinow; in the valley of the Pilica; on the banks of the Nida; along the River Danee in Galicia and in the foothills of the Carpathians. There is no cohesion other than that resulting from isolated episodes. Although large forces are engaged on both sides, there is no fundamental unity to the strategy of the enemy. Even the daily struggles about Sochaczew demonstrate that the German perseverance is merely the hope of breaking through the Russian right, but these attacks are far less fierce than they were when the Austrians were in full swing. In this fighting the Germans used the bayonet to a much greater extent than in their previous operations.

"The fighting on the Bzura showed a great degree of courage and almost unbelievable endurance on the part of the Russian troops. This leads to the belief that having held these positions for so long on the swampy banks of the Bzura, the Russian forces can now spring at the enemy and overwhelm him."

Washington, Dec. 26.—Secretary Daniels today called on Captain Ouan, commanding the armored cruiser North Carolina, to report whether violence had been made at Tripoli against American sailors. Athens dispatches, published today, said that an American warship had threatened to begin a bombardment as a result of violence toward Americans. The North Carolina and the Tennessee both are at Beirut today, the Ten-

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## STORM SWEEPING FROM OMAHA EAST

COLDEST TEMPERATURES OF THE YEAR ARE REGISTERED THIS MORNING

## TELEGRAPH WIRES BROKEN

FRIGID TEMPERATURES CAUSE CESSATION IN COMMUNICATIONS

## TWENTY-FOUR BELOW ZERO

SEVERAL POINTS IN WISCONSIN REPORT THIS UNUSUAL TEMPERATURE

From Omaha to the Atlantic coast severe weather prevailed in the wake of a cold wave which originated in Manitoba, Canada, and swept southward and eastward. Cold weather records were shattered in many points where official weather reports are maintained.

Among the coldest places were Charles City, Iowa, 24 below; La Crosse, Wis., 24 below; Peoria, Ill., 18 below; Davenport and Des Moines, Iowa, 14 below; Devil's Lake, N. D., 18 below; St. Paul, 22 below; Green Bay, Wis., 18 below.

Telegraph and telephone companies reported many "cold weather breaks" due to the contraction of wires. Chicago fared better than its outlying suburbs, because of a protecting curtain of fog, but none the less experienced its coldest morning, with the mercury at 4 below, though it quickly went up to 9 above.

## GERMANY PREPARES TO TAKE OVER BELGIUM

FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS LEAD TO BELIEF THAT IS HER INTENTION

London, Dec. 26.—The British authorities have been advised of Germany's notification to neutral governments that it will no longer recognize the exequators crediting their consuls to Belgium.

This action has created some surprise in England, where it is regarded as a preliminary step to the official taking-over of Belgium by the Germans. The result of this action probably would be the refusal to recognize Brand Whitlock, the American minister, or the Marquis of Villalobar, the Spanish minister, as diplomats accredited to Belgium. W. H. Page, the American ambassador here, is without advice in the situation. Nevertheless, great interest is manifested in London as to the probable action of the American government if Germany grants only provisional recognition to neutral consuls.

## BIG CONCERN FAILS

St. Louis, Dec. 26.—An involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed in the federal court here today against the Schaper Brothers Mercantile company, which operates a large department store. Edward L. Schaper, president of the company, was appointed receiver. The attorney for the company said the claims against it would aggregate about \$300,000.

## BEHIND THE TIMES

New York, Dec. 26.—A sailing vessel arrived in port today, whose crew did not know there was a war until signalled outside the harbor by a British cruiser. She was the Norwegian bark Padang. She left Padang, Sumatra, on August 12 with a cargo of coffee, and the British cruiser was the first vessel she spoke during her entire passage.

## TWO PRISONERS ESCAPE

Atlanta, Ga., Federal prison guards and local police today sought two convicts who escaped from the United States penitentiary last night. The fugitives are Hiram Lepper, sentenced for 15 years in Baltimore last May for counterfeiting, and Tom Daley, sentenced for five years for postoffice robbery.

## FILIPINO PLANS FOR UPRISING FAIL

THE UNITED STATES OFFICIALS LEARN OF PROPOSED AT-TACK CHRISTMAS EVE

## CONSPIRATORS ARE ARRESTED

LEADERLESS, NATIVES PROVE UNABLE TO PURSUE THEIR CAMPAIGN

## ACTS OF VIOLENCE REPORTED

IT IS BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT FEW IF ANY PERSONS WERE KILLED

Manila, Dec. 26.—Eight Filipinos have been arrested on charges of sedition as a result of an abortive uprising in Manila and its environs on Thursday night. Further arrests are probable. From army sources it is learned that a general warning was sent to all officers on Thursday afternoon stating that fully 10,000 Filipinos in Manila alone were ready for a concerted attack on Fort Santiago, Cuartel Espana, the Cuartel Infanteria, and the medical depot. The military units were immediately prepared and a street patrol was started at dusk.

Constabulary agents who are members of the secret societies disclosed the plans for an uprising, thus enabling a force of constabulary and police to disperse gatherings at Bagambayan and Navotas, near Malaban. At Callaoan a squad of American

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## INDIANA MEN ARRESTED FOR ELECTION FRAUDS

UNITED STATES INVESTIGATES ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN TERRE HAUTE

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 26.—Arrests of the so-called "higher ups" in the alleged conspiracy to corrupt elections at Terre Haute, filled this morning's work of United States deputy marshals who last night arrested 46 of the more than 100 men indicted as the result of the federal grand jury's investigations in the Terre Haute election of November 3. The first of the prominent men to be taken was County Sheriff Dennis Shea, who voluntarily surrendered. At noon he had not furnished bond which was fixed by United States Marshal Mark Store at \$10,000.

Circuit Judge Eli H. Redman and Mayor Donn M. Roberts went to the office of Marshal Storen, but decline to state whether they had been summoned. Marshal Storen would make no statement. City Judge Thomas Smith, John M. Masselink, city sealer of weights and measures, and a member of the last legislature, and Maurice Walsh, county sealer, also were arrested.

Masselink was the first to be released on bond. In all 15 men had been arrested or had voluntarily gone to the marshal's room before noon. Among those taken in custody today were William Doyle, brother of Sylvester Doyle, acting chief of police; Dan Aldin and Nick Burton, saloon keepers in the foreign section of the city; Charles Miller, a livery man; Funo Harms, custodian of the city hall; Earl Harkness, member of a grocery firm; Joseph Kelley, a bartender, and George Woodam, a saloon keeper and John E. Greene, re-elected as election inspectors at the last election.

## ENGLAND POKES FUN

London, Dec. 26.—Disparaging sports in America the London Sportsman, one of the leading sporting newspapers, remarks on the "curious fact" that the six-day bicycle race still survives in the United States.

"To the English mind the weakness of the American public for the six-day race is strange," says the paper, "for in this country these antiquated competitions died many years ago."

## MAYTORENA GOES AWAY FROM THE LINE

COMMANDER OF MEXICAN TROOPS NEAR NACO WILL AVOID TROUBLE

## BULLETS WILL BE STOPPED

ATTACKS UPON CARRANZA GARRISON RECENTLY CAUSED AMERICANS WORRY

## ITURBIDE MAKES ESCAPE

GUTIERREZ GOVERNMENT IS ANXIOUS TO GET HERO OF MEXICO CITY

Washington, Dec. 26.—American Consul Silliman at Mexico City reported today that General Palafox, minister of agriculture in the cabinet of Provisional President Gutierrez, had issued a statement charging that he, (Silliman) Special Agent Canova and others had accepted a prize of 5,000 pesos to effect the release of Former Governor Iturbide.

Palafox, an adherent of Zapata, is said to have been eager to see Iturbide held. The latter was commander of the federal district during the brief administration of Provisional President Carbajal, but remained after his colleagues had fled, and took an active part in keeping order after the Carranza forces withdrew and the Zapata forces entered.

Secretary Bryan, admiring Iturbide's personal courage, in preferring to maintain order in the city rather than make his own escape, took a personal interest in the case and identical representations were made to both Gutierrez and Villa to obtain his release. Iturbide is on the way to the United States, but reports from Mexico City say Palafox announced his intention of arresting him if he were caught en route to El Paso. Mr. Silliman in his report dismissed the story of Iturbide as absurd.

Gutierrez Quit Villa?

The Carranza agency here announced receipt of the following message from Carranza's secretary at Vera Cruz: "General Villareal at Monterey informs us that he recently had a conference at Saltillo with General Alvarez, the Gutierrez governor of the state of San Luis Potosi, who informed him that Eulalio Gutierrez had sent him to inform Villareal that he demanded from Villa that he eliminate himself from political activity, but that Villa had not complied and that Gutierrez was disposed to enroll himself and his troops once again under the banner of the first chief and the plan of Guadalupe."

New Mine Ruling

The provisional government in Mexico City has issued a decree extending to March 31 the time for revalidation of mining titles, according to a Mexico City dispatch today to the state department. A message, dated noon December 24, from Eagle Pass, says: "The situation remains unchanged at Piedras Negras."

A mail report from the American vice consul at Ensenada, lower California, states that "while there has been some political disturbance of late, conditions in general are improving and the district is quiet." He adds that the bitter feeling against Americans, which was noticeable last spring apparently has disappeared and that 175 or 200 Americans are now in the district. In that connection, however, the state department announced that "it does not advise Americans to return to Mexico and those who do so, go there on their own responsibility."

Consul Canada's dispatches to the state department from Vera Cruz today made no reference to fighting there yesterday between Carranza and Villa troops, and the other sources of information on Mexican affairs were without advice.

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## The Battle Is Moved

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 26.—Governor Maytorena, with his Villa forces, began retreating today out of range of the guns of the Carranza garrison at